

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 06552 251112Z
ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05
SS-15 NSC-05 H-01 VO-03 /071 W
-----251133Z 099717 /14

P R 251025Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0495
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 6552

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SREF, TH
SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES - CAMP CONDITIONS IN THAILAND

REF: (A) STATE 60951 (B) GENEVA 2113

1. HUMPHRIES' STATEMENT ON REFUGEES CAMP CONDITIONS REPORTED
REF A ARE SIMPLY NOT ACCURATE, INSOFAR AS WE ARE AWARE.
ADMITTEDLY, CONDITIONS WERE HARDLY IDEAL IN ALL CAMPS WHEN
HUMPHRIES WAS HERE A YEAR OR SO AGO BUT THEY WERE CERTAINLY
NOT AS HUMPHRIES CLAIMED EVEN THEN. AT NONE OF THE CAMPS DO
REFUGEES HAVE TO FORAGE FOR FOOD OR STAY ALIVE OR, USUALLY,
TO SEARCH FOR SHELTER. MOST, BUT NOT ALL CAMPS, ARE PERMANENT
STRUCTURES CONSTRUCTED SPECIFICALLY FOR REFUGEES. WITHOUT
EXCEPTION, ALL CAMPS RECEIVE UNHCR FOOD AID. SEVENTY PERCENT
OF UNHCR'S BUDGET FOR THAILAND IS SPENT ON FOOD. IT IS POS-
SIBLE, OF COURSE, THAT SOME MAY BE SIPHONED OFF ALONG THE
WAY BY LOCAL OFFICIALS, BUT EMBASSY IS SATISFIED ON BASIS
OF NUMEROUS AND FREQUENT VISITS TO REFUGEE CAMPS THAT
UNHCR FOOD AID IS, ESSENTIALLY, REACHING REFUGEES. WE ALSO
TAKE ISSUE WITH HUMPHRIES' STATEMENT THAT MOST LAO AND
HMONG (.39) DO NOT WANT TO LEAVE THE AREA; IN OUR JUDGMENT,
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 06552 251112Z

JUST THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE.

2. LOCAL UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE BERTS DISCOUNTS HUMPHRIES'
CLAIMS COMPLETELY, SAYING THAT IF CONDITIONS HE DESCRIBED
HAD BEEN TRUE FOR CONSIDERABLE TIME, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN
REPERCUSSIONS OF WHICH WE WOULD ALL HAVE BEEN GREATLY
AWARE BY NOW BEFORE A MAN WHO WAS HERE BRIEFLY SOME TIME

AGO MADE HIS STATEMENT.

3. AS REPORTED REF B, GOA HAS DISASSOCIATED ITSELF COMPLETELY FROM HUMPHRIES' VIEWS, ACCORDING TO LOCAL AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY. EMBOFF OF THAT MISSION WHO TRAVELLED WITH MOST RECENT AUSTRALIAN IMMIGRATION TEAM HERE LAST MONTH TO VARIOUS CAMPS TOLD US THAT NO ONE ON THAT TEAM MADE ANY NEGATIVE STATEMENTS WHATSOEVER ABOUT CAMP CONDITIONS. WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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